

May 14, 2021

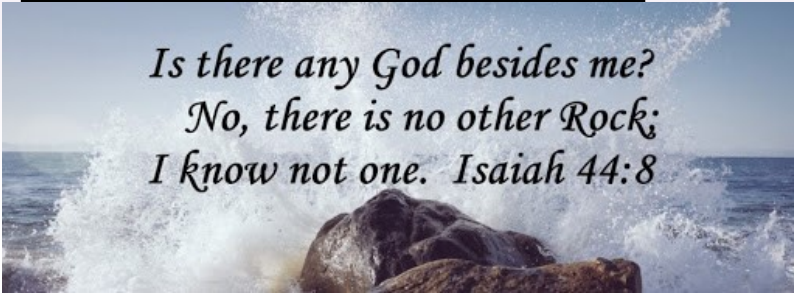
THE CONNECTOR

Monthly Newsletter of Cross Connections, Inc.



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*Is there any God besides me?
No, there is no other Rock;
I know not one. Isaiah 44:8*

OUR MISSION

The mission of Cross Connections is to provide affordable Biblical counseling and to train lay counselors (called Covenant Partners) in providing Biblical guidance to others. We accomplish this working through the pastors and representatives of our over 120 ministry partners. We are committed to using God's Word as authority in the counseling setting; being ever mindful our clinical skills and abilities are nothing compared to our Savior's

FILLING STATION: "PATIENCE"

When I was a much younger man, Burger King had a marketing slogan in their commercials that said, "Your way, right away!" Of course, my group of friends capitalized whenever we could to shred the poor soul who showed any level of impatience by saying, "C'mon, Burger King!" To be honest, it was hypocritical and unfair considering we all show impatience on a daily basis. Standing in line at the grocery, sitting in traffic, waiting at the doctor's office, etc. We all want things our way, right away.

Fortunately for us, our God doesn't work that way. Where our ways are imperfect, His are perfect. Where our timing is poor, His is impeccable. Where our plans fall apart, His remain strong and steadfast. What area(s) in your life do you need to show patience in? With your spouse? A co-worker? A friend? With yourself?

Whenever I have struggled with patience in my life, Ephesians 4:2 has been incredibly helpful (and convicting!) "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." Thanks be to God for his forgiveness, and his patience with us.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

“For such a time as this” from chapter four in the book of Esther has come to my mind frequently lately as I have interacted with clients and ministry partners of Cross Connections. The appreciation they have for the Biblical assistance our counseling staff provides is extraordinary, and is the “fire in the belly” that drives our team. We provide these services knowing how much our enemy and the world hates the truth of what Christ has done for us, and that he is the only way to peace, healing, and hope. As the world continues to turn toward the darkness, the light of Christ at Cross Connections and other confessional ministries shines brighter. Make no mistake, the Lord continues to bless His ministry here “for such a time as this”.

SILVER LININGS

Just a quick reminder that currently Cross Connections works with the following insurance providers: Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aetna, Behavioral Health Systems, Cigna, Physicians Health Plans (PHP), Sagamore, Tricare/Humana, UNITED Healthcare/United Behavioral Health/Optum.

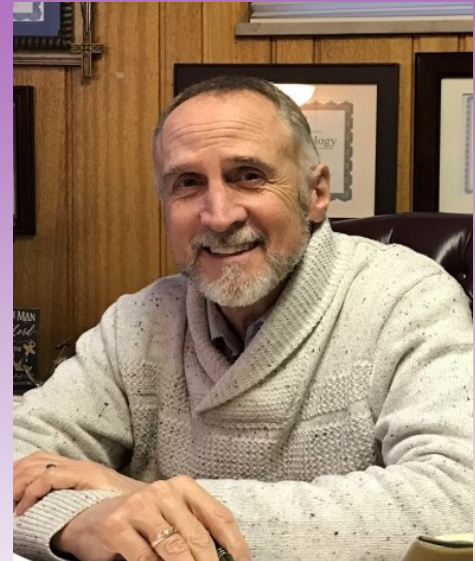
Cross Connections is also approved to work with clients covered through Traditional Anthem Medicaid to include: HHW—Hoosier Healthwise, HIP—Healthy Indiana Plan, and HCC—Hoosier Care Connect.

Over the course of the past six months, the need for mental health services has increased dramatically, given the prolonged strain the COVID-19 pandemic has placed upon our world. With the increased need far out-pacing the supply of available therapists, our community faces a pending crisis when it comes to our mental, emotional, and behavioral health.

Here at Cross Connections, we have seen a consistent monthly increase of 50% more new client referrals/requests compared to 2019 and the COVID-19 pandemic. We are doing everything we can to meet the increased demand and our team of dedicated Biblical therapists are working tirelessly to shine God’s Gospel light into the lives of those clients we are seeing.

Even with the extraordinary efforts of our team, we are currently looking at an approximate three week wait for new referrals/requests for counseling. This isn’t unique to Cross Connections. Mental health providers all across Northeast Indiana are carrying a waiting list, some even up to six weeks.

A “silver lining” as we go through this challenge is that even though just about every aspect of our life has changed during the pandemic, the Gospel of Jesus Christ hasn’t changed one iota. Nor will it ever. The hope, peace, and healing the Holy Spirit works in the lives of our clients will continue from now until the final trumpet sounds.



Supporting Hope by Dr. Jim Dohrmann, Development Director

Thank you so much to those of you who helped us reach our April match campaign for **Isaiah 9:6 annual fund!** We raised \$25,242 in addition to the \$25,000 match donated by Mrs. Deb Rush and her family, in honor of her late husband Mr. William Rush. We are very appreciative of their sustained, faithful support for Cross Connections, and the changed lives being impacted here each day. The I96 fund continues to be a focus for us and we need your continued involvement to keep the ministry sustainable through the remainder of 2021 and beyond. You can send cash or check to our main office or give online using the Donate Now button on the home page of our website.

On June 11th, 2021 Cross Connections will host its **12th annual golf outing** at Brookwood Golf Course. This event brings supporters out into the bright sunshine after a long Indiana winter and offers food, fellowship, exciting prizes, and lunch. Those interested in playing as individuals or a foursome of friends, go to www.crossconnectionsounseling.com for upcoming details.

Among the ways to support Biblical counseling at Cross Connections, one new way is through **Planned Giving**. This means of support is a wonderful way to incorporate legacy giving while aiding the cause of affordable Biblical counseling for many years to come. Brochure content is being developed to help those interested in understanding how their gift continues to do the work of God that was aligned with their heart.

Thanks to all of you for your faithful prayers and support for His Biblical counseling ministry at Cross Connections! You are making a difference in the lives of clients now and also in their life to come in Christ!

By the numbers thus far in 2021

Total number of counseling hours provided: 1,029

School counseling hours: 175

Individual counseling hours: 880

Marriage counseling hours: 102

Family Counseling hours: 47